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UNCLAS PANAMA 002392

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DOL/ILAB FOR TINA MCCARTER  
DRL/IL FOR TU DANG

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: UPDATE FOR WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR REPORT

REF: STATE 184972

1. (U) Please find below updated information on child labor in Panama, divided by section. Post will report additional statistics septel as they become available.

#### Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

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- The Comptroller General's Office reports that over 47,000 children work in Panama, or approximately 7.9 percent of children living in private households. This statistic came from a 2000 study and has been quoted in several recent press stories.

- In 2002, 6.5 percent of the population in Panama were living on less than USD 1 a day and 17.1 percent were living on less than \$2 a day. (World Bank Development Indicators 2006)

- Post has been unable to confirm that insurgent and paramilitary groups from Colombia have forcibly conscripted children from the border region.

- In 2004, the gross primary enrollment rate was 112 percent and the net primary enrollment rate was 98 percent. (UNESCO)

#### Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

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- Panama adopted a National Child Labor Action Plan in June 2006, to cover the years 2007-2011.

- The plan includes goals, implementation strategies, and progress evaluation measures for areas including health, education, legislation, awareness, and investigation.

- President Torrijos also signed an executive decree in June 2006 identifying and criminalizing 17 categories of the worst forms of child labor.

Arreaga